REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-16, and 18-20 are pending. By this amendment, claims 1, 8-15, and 19-20 are amended. Independent claims 1, 9, and 15 are amended to incorporate part of the novel features of original claims 4, 14, and 18 and to more precisely recite the features of the present application. No new matter is introduced. Support for the amendments may be found at least in original claims 4, 14, and 18, in Figure 3, and at page 4, lines 15-22 and page 6, lines 21-31 of the specification. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and following remarks.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-2, 4-16, and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) over U.S. Patent 6,604,108 to Nitahara (hereafter Nitahara) in view of U.S. Patent 6,681,227 to Kojima et al. (hereafter Kojima). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Nitahara is directed to an information mart system and information mart browser. The information mart system collects financial and testing data in the context of drug testing by pharmaceutical companies. Kojima is directed to a system and method for retrieving data from a database system. However, Nitahara and Kojima, individually and in combination, do not disclose or suggest "merging the database tables into an equivalent set of larger tables in the display context by appending source identifiers as key fields to the data so that name spaces of the data are unique within each data context; and enabling a user to update the data from the multiple data sources through the conduits using a user interface without having to update each data source individually," as recited in amended claim 1 (emphasis added).

As noted in the March 2, 2005 Response, the method recited in claim 1 appends a source identifier as a key field to the data from multiple data sources before merging database tables into a single database table. A (singular) cluster is a set of multiple nodes, each of which is capable of running any subset of multiple applications. The object manager (OM) interacts with the nodes to present the configuration and current status of the nodes and applications as a relational database containing a number of different tables. The conduits (one per OM) merge these tables into an exactly equivalent set of tables in the display context by appending source information fields to all the key fields (both the keys themselves and the reference fields in other columns). Updating each node and its configuration is accomplished by modifying these tables through the OM without having to update each data source individually. Specifically, the present application provides a one-to-one relationship between conduits, connections, and OM instances, thus precluding overlapping and conflicting updates to the databases and allowing for bidirectional viewing and updating of data. The

various sources of the data and the connections are visible to users, allowing the graphic user interface (GUI) to display data within the context of the source and to avoid relational database conflicts. The conduits work with each other to provide a workable display context. Each conduit also provides a single point of control where a security policy can be implemented.

This bidirectional feature is also recited in original claims 4, 14, and 18, and is <u>not</u> addressed by the Office Action in rejecting these claims. For example, the Office Action asserts, on page 5 with respect to claims 4-8, 13-14, and 18-20, that Nitahara discloses "updating the data" at column 7, lines 20-30 and claims 2-4. Nitahara recites, at column 7, lines 20-30 and in claims 2-4:

> Periodic updating of content files may be implemented in accordance with the needs of the particular application. Updating may be accomplished through wholesale recreation of the information mart <u>by performing the above file creation process for every information mart file that is generated through processing of source data</u>. Alternatively, <u>selective updating</u> may be provided <u>by comparing the time/date stamp of each content file with the time/date stamp of each file from which its source data originates</u>, and updating any content file for which a source data file has a later time/date stamp.
>
> ......
>
> 2. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the content file creation facility comprises a control facility for updating information mart content files.
>
> 3. The system claimed in claim 2, wherein updating information mart content files comprises periodically creating each locally stored information mart content file from its associated source data in accordance with its associated source data processing rules.
>
> 4. The system claimed in claim 2, wherein updating information mart content files comprises, <u>for each locally stored information mart content file, comparing a time/data stamp of the information mart content file with a time/date stamp of each file containing associated source data</u>, and if the time/date stamp of the information mart content file is older than a time date stamp of a file containing associated source data, generating the information mart content file from its associated source data in accordance with its associated source data processing rules.

(Emphasis added). As clearly shown above, Nitahara's system updates data in each data source <u>individually</u> and <u>selectively</u> by performing the same process for <u>each and every information mart file</u>. <u>Individually</u> updating <u>each and every file</u> is very different from updating the data from multiple data sources <u>through the conduits without having to update each data source individually</u>.

Kojima does not disclose or suggest the updating feature either. In Kojima's system, a human database administrator configures relationships between the tables in the meta-data descriptions. The underlying complexity of such relationships is <u>hidden</u> from a user who does not know that his one big table is, e.g., ten smaller tables, and is spread over, e.g., ten servers. Therefore, Kojima's system is very different form a system that uses conduits, where the various sources of the data are not hidden at all and the nature of the connection to the data matters. Making the connection explicit allows the GUI to display data within the context of the source and avoid relational database conflicts. Since the cited references do not disclose or suggest all of the elements of amended claim 1, claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2 and 4-8 are allowable because they depend from allowable claim 1 and for the additional features they recite. For example, Nitahara and Kojima, individually and in combination, do not disclose or suggest "wherein the updating step includes <u>striping the source identifier from the data</u> before updating the data context," as recited in claim 5 (emphasis added). Similarly, Nitahara and Kojima, individually and in combination, do not disclose or suggest "wherein the updating step includes updating automatically <u>elements that depend on views against the database tables in the display context</u>," as recited in claim 6 (emphasis added). Likewise, Nitahara and Kojima, individually and in combination, do not disclose or suggest "wherein the updating step includes updating explicitly <u>elements that do not depend on views against the database tables in the display context</u>," as recited in claim 7 (emphasis added).

Regarding claim 9, for at least the same reason as stated above with respect to claim 1, Nitahara and Kojima, individually and in combination, do not disclose or suggest "conduits that merge the one or more database tables into an equivalent set of larger tables in the display context by appending source identifiers as key fields to the data so that name spaces of the data are unique within each data context, wherein the conduits enable a user to user to <u>update</u> the data from the multiple data sources <u>through the conduits</u> using a user interface <u>without having to update each data source individually</u>," as recited in amended claim 9 (emphasis added). Since the cited references do not disclose or suggest all of the elements of amended claim 9, claim 9 is allowable.

Claims 10-14 are allowable because they depend from allowable claim 9 and for the additional features they recite.

Regarding claim 15, for at least the same reason as stated above with respect to claim 1, Nitahara and Kojima, individually and in combination, do not disclose or suggest "merging the database tables into an equivalent set of larger tables in the display context by appending

source identifiers as key fields to the data so that name spaces of the data are unique within each data context; and enabling a user to <u>update</u> the data from the multiple data sources <u>through the conduits</u> using a user interface <u>without having to update each data source individually,</u>" as recited in amended claim 15 (emphasis added). Since the cited references do not disclose or suggest all of the elements of amended claim 15, claim 15 is allowable.

Claims 16 and 18-20 are allowable because they depend from allowable claim 15 and for the additional features they recite. For example, Nitahara and Kojima, individually and in combination, do not disclose or suggest "wherein the instructions for updating include instructions for <u>striping the source identifier from the data</u> before updating the data context," as recited in claim 19 (emphasis added).
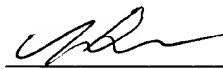
Withdrawal of rejections of claims 1-2, 4-16, and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt examination and allowance are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desired in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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